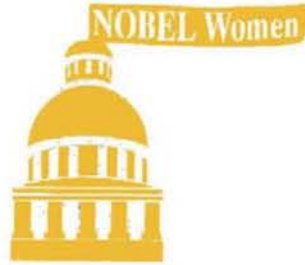


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**National President**

January 13, 2010

Honorable Julius Genachowski,  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: In the Matter of National Broadband Plan Notice of Inquiry (GN Docket No. 09-51)

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

It is with great pleasure that we submit our joint policy statement, *Empowering Women in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Paving the Way with Broadband and Mobility*, on behalf of the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women and the National Foundation for Women Legislators.

On October 28-29, 2009, we hosted a Congressional Women's Broadband Technology Summit where members of our caucuses met in the company of members of Congress and the Obama Administration to explore avenues for empowering women and supporting families through increased use of broadband-based technologies. This policy statement, presented as part of our Summit, represents a foundation upon which broadband policy can be based, especially when we consider the impact that broadband technology can have on entrepreneurship, healthcare, homecare, distance learning, education, public safety and the environment.

We fully intend to continue our work together to advance the broadband agenda as a national priority. Likewise, we hope that this statement will serve as a first step in our continued work with the Federal Communications Commission in developing consumer-focused policies that promote investment and innovation online.

Broadband is a necessary component of our success as a nation. The Commission is taking a much needed step in the right direction for the well being of our country in creating the National Broadband Plan, and we stand ready to be of service in the fulfillment of this task.

Respectfully,

Sharon Weston Broome  
National President

Enclosure

cc: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Meredith Atwell Baker